



# City of Greensboro

## NEWS RELEASE



Contact: Assistant Chief David Douglas

Office: 373-2032 Mobile: 430-6030

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR THE EFFECTS OF ERNESTO

The Greensboro Fire Department has begun to make preparations for the effects of tropical storm Ernesto which is projected to impact our area on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Based on current predictions our planning is for a rain event that could bring 3 to 5 inches or more of rain to our area along with some moderate winds depending on the track of the storm. While the amount of rain is not the greatest concern, when coupled with our current dry conditions and hard packed ground the potential for excess runoff is heightened. This scenario could lead to flash flooding, especially in flood prone areas and the potential for swift water incidents.

Residents that live in flood prone areas should be on heightened awareness for rising water and be prepared to evacuate on short notice. Preparation and planning should begin now for pets, medication, clothing and other essential items in the event you have to leave your home.

Drivers are cautioned not to attempt to drive through standing or moving water, these actions are not only dangerous, but foolhardy. Only a few inches of moving water can lift an automobile and begin to move it. Vehicles caught in swift water typically place the lives of the occupants in immediate danger. Four-wheel drive vehicles are as susceptible to this as passenger cars, so all drivers are advised to find an alternative route.

Our USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) team is making preliminary plans in the event they are needed here or deployed to another part of the State by the Governor. The team has not been placed on alert and all activities with this group are preparatory in nature.

Our line companies are making routine plans for a weather related event with emphasis being placed on swift water rescue and operations in flooded areas. All of our personnel have received basic training in these areas and all of our apparatus carries PFD's (Personal Flotation Devices) as well as throw bags – bags containing rope that we can use to gain control of a victim.

We strongly encourage residents to be prepared for a worse-case scenario where wide spread flooding and power outages may exist. Residents should be prepared to be self-sufficient with food, water and other basic essentials for 72 hours. Information on this can be found at: [FEMA: Basic Disaster Supplies](#)

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